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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Sterile container for the accommodation and sterile storage, in particular, of surgical instruments or material, comprising a receiving area formed by a container base and container walls, the receiving area comprising a plurality of separate chambers formed by intermediate walls of the container which divide the receiving area, wherein:

filter openings are provided in said separate chambers;

a single sterile filter covers the filter openings for several of the chambers;

each chamber has its own separate cover as a closure element, and

a seal is seated between each chamber and its closure element.

2. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 1, wherein the closure element is arranged so as to be pivotable.

3. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 1, wherein a closure element is arranged by means of a sliding guide means.

4. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 1, wherein the closure element is at least partially transparent.

5. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 1, wherein the sterile container is manufactured at least partially from a transparent material.

6. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 1, wherein the seal is adapted to be acted upon by underpressure.

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Claims 7 - 9 (Cancelled)

10. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 8, wherein the sterile filter is seated beneath the container base.
11. (Currently amended) Sterile container as defined in claim 1, wherein the sterile container has a holder ~~for a~~ for the sterile filter.
12. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 11, wherein the holder is detachable from the sterile container.
13. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 11, wherein the holder is arranged on the sterile container so as to be pivotable.
14. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 11, wherein the sterile filter is held in the holder by means of a spring catch.
15. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 8, wherein a protective grating is seated between sterile filter and sterile container.
16. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 15, wherein the protective grating is permeable to steam.
17. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 15, wherein the protective grating is insertable into a holder for the sterile filter.

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18. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 8, wherein at least one chamber has a limiting element provided with openings facing the sterile filter.

19. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 18, wherein the limiting element is a respective part of the container base.

20. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 19, wherein a limiting element provided with openings for several chambers is formed in one piece.

21. (Original) Sterile container as defined in claim 18, wherein the limiting element provided with openings of the at least one chamber is detachable.

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